

CLAIMS

1. A liquid composition for oral use containing a calcium compound and an acidulant characterised in that calcium is present in the range of 0.3 to 0.8 mol per mol of acid and
5 that the proportion of calcium and acidulant in the composition is selected so that the pH of the composition is from 3.5 to 4.5.
2. A composition as claimed in claim 1 in which the calcium is present in the range
0.3 - 0.75 mol per mol of acid .
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3. A composition as claimed in claim 1 in which the calcium is present in the range
0.3 - 0.65 mol per mol of acid .
4. A composition as claimed in claim 1 in which the calcium is present in the range
15 0.3 - 0.55 mol per mol of acid .
5. A composition as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4 in which the calcium is present in an amount of at least 0.4 mol per mol of acid .
- 20 6. A composition as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 5 in which the pH of the composition is not more than 4.
7. A composition as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 5 in which the pH is from 3.7 to 3.9.
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8. A composition as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 7 in which the acid is citric acid or malic acid or lactic acid or mixtures thereof.
9. A composition as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 8 in which the calcium
30 compound is calcium carbonate, calcium hydroxide, calcium citrate, calcium malate, calcium lactate, calcium chloride, calcium glycerophosphate or calcium formate.

10. A composition as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 9 which is a beverage.
11. A composition as claimed in claim 10 in which the beverage is a still fruit drink, or a carbonated soft drink or preferably a health drink.
- 5 12. A composition as claimed in claim 11 in which the health drink is blackcurrant juice drink or a vitamin added beverage
13. A composition as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 9 which is a drink concentrate
10 for the preparation of a beverage.
14. A composition as claimed in claim 13 which is a concentrate for a fruit drink or health drink.
- 15 15. A composition as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 9 which is an oral healthcare composition.
16. A composition as claimed in claim 15 which is a mouthwash.
- 20 17. Use of calcium as a tooth erosion inhibitor in an acidic liquid composition for oral use by adding a calcium compound to the composition so that calcium is present in the range of 0.3 to 0.8 mol per mol of acid, the amount of calcium and acidulant in the composition being selected so that the pH of the composition is from 3.5 to 4.5.
- 25 18. Use as claimed in claim 17 in which the calcium is present in the range 0.3 - 0.75 mol per mol of acid.
19. Use as claimed in claim 17 in which the calcium is present in the range 0.3 - 0.65 mol per mol of acid.
- 30 20. Use as claimed in claim 17 in which the calcium is present in the range 0.3 - 0.55 mol per mol of acid.

21. Use as claimed in any one of claims 17 to 20 in which the calcium is present in an amount of at least 0.4 mol per mol of acid .
- 5 22. Use as claimed in any one of claims 17 to 21 in which the pH of the composition is not more than 4.
23. Use as claimed in any one of claims 17 to 21 in which the pH is from 3.7 to 3.9.
- 10 24. Use as claimed in any one of claim 17 to 23 in which the acidic liquid composition is a natural fruit juice drink concentrate.
25. A process for preparing a composition as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 16 which comprises adding a calcium compound to an acidic liquid oral composition so that
15 calcium is present in the range of 0.3 to 0.8 mol per mol of acid , and if necessary or desired adjusting the pH by addition of an alkali so that the pH of the composition is from 3.5 to 4.5.
26. A process as claimed in claim 25 in which the acidic liquid composition is a natural
20 fruit juice drink concentrate.
27. A method of reducing the tooth erosion properties of an acidic oral composition which comprises adding a calcium compound to the acidic liquid oral composition so that calcium is present in the range of 0.3 to 0.8 mol per mol of acid , and if necessary or
25 desired adjusting the pH by addition of an alkali so that the pH of the composition is from 3.5 to 4.5.
28. A method as claimed in any one of claims 17 to 21 in which the acidic liquid composition is a natural fruit juice drink concentrate.